

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00225 041238Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 S*C-03 *SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08

SCI-06 DRC-01 AID-20 /169 W
----- 016927

P R 041126Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9475

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUM*UR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMB SSY RANGOON

AME BASSY T IPEI

AMEM*ASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCON L UDORN

DIA

EA HQS

CINCPA

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0225

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: READINGS OF THE BANGKOK POLITICAL BAROMETER THROUGH
JANUARY 4

REF: BANGKOK 20029

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 00225 041238Z

SUMMARY: THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED A SOBER CALL FOR AUSTERITY TO THE COLD SPELL THAT GRIPS THE NORTHERN SECTIONS OF THAILAND. STUDENT LEADERS ARE PLANNING A WARM WELCOME FOR JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TANAKA. THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSED THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. END SUMMARY.

1. ADMITTING IN A TELEVISED NEW YEAR'S DAY ADDRESS THAT THE COUNTRY FACED CERTAIN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK CALLED ON THE THAI PEOPLE TO ECONOMIZE. SANYA'S SPEECH WAS SOBERING AND IN LINE WITH THE POLICY OF LEVELLING WITH THE PUBLIC. THE KING'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS REITERATED THE THEME OF UNITY WHICH HE HAS USED ON OTHER OCCASIONS. THE KING CALLED ON THE PUBLIC "TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, BE SYMPATHETIC, SACRIFICE PERSONAL BENEFITS FOR COMMON GAINS, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST." THESE MUTUALLY SUPPORTING SPEECHES ARE AN INDICATION OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND THE COMMON GOALS BETWEEN THE MONARCHY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

2. UNDERLINING THE AUSTERITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN TO PUT INTO EFFECT A NUMBER OF OIL CONSERVATION MEASURES. MOVIE THEATER OWNERS ARE THREATENING A SHUT DOWN OVER THEIR RESTRICTED HOURS, BUT BUSINESS AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY SEEM TO BE COOPERATING ON OIL CONSERVATION. OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES, INCLUDING SOME FORM OF RATIONING, ARE HINTED AT IN THE PRESS.

3. A COLD SPELL OF UNUSUAL DURATION HAS HIT THE NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY. SOME DEATHS FROM EXPOSURE ARE REPORTED AND VARIOUS CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEGUN DISTRIBUTING CLOTHING AND BLANKETS. THE WEATHER WILL HAVE AN AS YET TO BE DETERMINED EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THESE AREAS, PARTICULARLY ON TOBACCO.

4. STUDENT LEADERS ARE PREPARING FOR JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TANAKA'S JANUARY 9-11 VISIT TO BANGKOK. THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) IS ARRANGING A PANEL DISCUSSION OF JAPANESE INVESTMENTS FOR JANUARY 8. IN ADDITION TO A "PEACEFUL" PROTEST AT THE AIRPORT, THE STUDENTS REPORTEDLY INTEND TO SEEK A MEETING WITH TANAKA ON THE 10TH. THE JAPANESE ECONOMIC POSTURE IN THAILAND HAS LONG BEEN A TARGET OF THE STUDENTS WHO WILL USE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 00225 041238Z

THIS VISIT AS A SPRINGBOARD TO TRY TO BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE. THE NSCT IS COORDINATING WITH OTHER STUDENT GROUPS TO AVOID "UNREASONABLE" PROTESTS WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE THE STUDENT CAUSE.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD HIS JUSTICE MINISTER, AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE, ON HIS BIWEEKLY NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW. THEY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT, PARTICULARLY THE LOWER AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTORS AND

ASSEMBLYMEN. THEY INDICATED THAT THE DRAFT WULD FIRST BE PRESENTED TO THE CABINET AND THEN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE PROGRAM STRESSED THAT THE DRAFT WILL BE READY WELL WITHIN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEADLINE. A CONSTITUTION WAS THE PRIMARY PROMISE THE SANYA GOVERNMENT MADE TO THE THAI PEOPLE, AND THIS DISCUSSION POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT STANDS BEHIND ITS PROMISES.
KINTNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSERVATION, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, GOVERNMENT REFORM, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS, STUDENT GROUPS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO00225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740163/aaaachbd.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 20029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: READINGS OF THE BANGKOK POLITICAL BAROMETER THROUGH JANUARY 4
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005